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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

MARCH 1990

DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCES
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Mlw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Security Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
x1	Birth Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x2	Death Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x4	Marriage Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
x6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
x7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
x8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
x9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment Program.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically.

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY

COMPOSITE INDEX

Wisconsin's Composite Index of leading economic indicators rose a full percentage point to 106.3 for February. The index has not shown a consistent trend, either positive or negative, in over a year.

The leading indicators gave mixed signals in February. The average weekly overtime in manufacturing increased. Initial claims for unemployment compensation decreased by a large amount. And the net gain in business telephone access lines grew.

Conversely, the number of job openings received by Job Service offices and the number of building plans examined decreased, somewhat braking the Composite Index growth.

LEADING INDICATORS

The average workweek in Wisconsin's manufacturing industries increased by one-tenth of an hour in February. While that is a small increase, it is significant because the workweek typically decreases a bit in this month.

The workweek average was boosted by an increase of the average weekly overtime worked in production, an increase amounting to a tenth of an hour. Overtime, too, usually decreases in February.

The longer workweek reinforced an increase of the employment level in manufacturing. The greater number of workers coupled with more hours per week means more labor expended in manufacturing.

The average weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation dropped by nearly 3,700 in February. A decrease of the initial claims average is normal this month, but the seasonal trend accounts for less than half of the decrease.

The total number of job openings received by public Job Service offices decreased by almost 600 this month. An increase of about 250 would have been normal. However, total employment throughout the state did grow by nearly 3,000, about 7,000 less than normal.

The number of new business incorporations decreased in February, but about two-thirds of the decrease is a normal seasonal trend.

The net gain of business telephone access lines increased by 885, which is better than the normal trend for February. And the number of commercial and industrial building plans examined decreased, but only slightly.

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series			% Change		Avg.
		Latest Month		Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1989
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	FEB	106.3	105.3	110.5	0.9%	-3.8%	106.5
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Hours	FEB	41.1	41.0	41.6	0.2%	-1.2%	41.5
Seasonally Adjusted			41.3	41.0	41.8	0.7%	-1.2%	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Hours	FEB	3.7	3.6	4.0	2.8%	-7.5%	3.9
Seasonally Adjusted			3.8	3.6	4.1	5.6%	-7.3%	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	8618	12296	7584	-29.9%	13.6%	7425
Seasonally Adjusted			8449	8821	7437	-4.2%	13.6%	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	5685	6277	6435	-9.4%	-11.7%	7383
Seasonally Adjusted			7703	8552	8718	-9.9%	-11.6%	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	563	716	560	-21.4%	0.5%	602
Seasonally Adjusted			607	666	604	-8.9%	0.5%	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	3092	2207	2429	40.1%	27.3%	2784
Seasonally Adjusted			3027	2942	2557	2.9%	18.4%	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	389	406	457	-4.2%	-14.9%	610
Seasonally Adjusted			572	591	672	-3.2%	-14.9%	
COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	DEC	92	97	103	-5.2%	-10.7%	88
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	Percent	FEB	5.1	5.8	5.1	.....	.....	4.4
Seasonally Adjusted			4.3	5.1	4.3	.....	.....	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	Mil.	DEC	451.9	259.9	342.8	73.9%	31.8%	201.5
Seasonally Adjusted	Therms		260.8	213.2	197.9	22.3%	31.8%	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	11,883	9,699	12,193	22.5%	-2.5%	14,665
Seasonally Adjusted			14,140	11,116	14,513	27.2%	-2.6%	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	Mil.	DEC	3870.4	3462.2	2381.5	11.8%	62.5%	2982.3
Seasonally Adjusted	KWH		3965.6	3599.0	2439.7	10.2%	62.5%	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Mil. $	FEB	41.8	42.9	42.4	-2.6%	-1.4%	145.7
Seasonally Adjusted			36.6	39.1	37.1	-6.4%	-1.3%	

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series			% Change		Avg
		Latest Month		Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1989
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT								
Unadjusted	Thous.	FEB	549.2	545.7	550.2	0.6%	-0.2%	556.6
Seasonally Adjusted			561.0	558.5	561.7	0.4%	-0.1%	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Dollars	FEB	$452.51	$447.31	$448.45	1.2%	0.9%	$446.49
Seasonally Adjusted			$450.71	$442.88	$446.84	1.8%	0.9%	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	Mil. $	DEC	536.3	544.7	456.5	-1.5%	17.5%	456.8
Seasonally Adjusted			500.5	474.1	424.8	5.6%	17.8%	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	Thous.	FEB	74.3	77.0	63.0	-3.5%	17.9%	80.8
Seasonally Adjusted			93.5	92.8	79.2	0.8%	18.1%	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	5418	6453	3678	-16.0%	47.3%	5761
Seasonally Adjusted			6094	6984	4138	-12.7%	47.3%	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	3762	4665	3386	-19.4%	11.1%	3425
Seasonally Adjusted			3855	4011	3470	-3.9%	11.1%	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	1656	1788	292	-7.4%	467.1%	2336
Seasonally Adjusted			2225	2903	393	-23.4%	466.2%	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	1487	2026	1522	-26.6%	-2.3%	3353
Seasonally Adjusted			3131	3422	3206	-8.5%	-2.3%	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			(Dec '89)	(Jun '89)	(Dec '88)			
Unadjusted (1982-1984 = 100)	Index	DEC	121.2	120.3	117.2	0.7%	3.4%	120.8
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	Index	FEB	154	162	143	-4.9%	7.7%	149
Seasonally Adjusted			155	160	144	-3.1%	7.6%	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	1957	1524	61	28.4%	3108.2%	1853
Seasonally Adjusted			2422	2109	1847	14.8%	31.1%	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	Number	FEB	311	311	235	0.0%	32.3%	375
Seasonally Adjusted			79	1885	60	-95.8%	31.7%	
X9 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	Number	JAN	9,336	9,197	9,426	1.5%	-1.0%	10436
Seasonally Adjusted			10,237	10,173	10,336	0.6%	-1.0%	

Section

B LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2504.4	2556.8	2584.3	-2.0%	-3.1%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2411.5	2408.8	2451.4	0.1%	-1.6%
Unemployment	128.9	148.0	132.9	-12.9%	-3.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.8	5.1	.....	.....
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2575.7	2605.7	2619.9	-1.2%	-1.7%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2465.7	2473.1	2506.5	-0.3%	-1.6%
Unemployment	110.0	132.6	113.4	-17.0%	-3.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.3	5.1	4.3	.....	.....

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FEBRUARY Unadjusted	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	2216.0	2207.3	2164.8	0.4%	2.4%
Contract Construction	74.3	77.0	63.0	-3.5%	17.9%
Manufacturing	548.9	545.4	550.0	0.6%	-0.2%
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	97.8	98.0	96.6	-0.2%	1.2%
Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services	17.1	17.2	17.2	-0.6%	-0.6%
Wholesale Trade	118.5	119.1	112.9	-0.5%	5.0%
Retail Trade	405.8	411.1	392.8	-1.3%	3.3%
General Merchandise	51.4	54.1	49.6	-5.0%	3.6%
Food Stores	61.6	63.0	59.3	-2.2%	3.9%
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	45.0	44.9	43.3	0.2%	3.9%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	118.3	118.4	115.7	-0.1%	2.2%
Banks & Depository Institutions	39.8	39.9	38.4	-0.3%	3.6%
Insurance Carriers	41.8	41.8	41.2	0.0%	1.5%
Service and Miscellaneous	510.5	507.9	492.9	0.5%	3.6%
Business Services	78.0	79.1	77.0	-1.4%	2.7%
Health Services	179.8	179.1	171.4	0.4%	4.5%
Hospitals	75.6	75.5	73.1	0.1%	3.4%
Private Education	26.8	25.0	26.4	7.2%	1.5%
Social Services	40.2	39.6	38.8	1.5%	3.6%
Government	340.4	328.8	339.4	3.5%	0.3%
State Government	84.5	80.2	87.1	5.4%	-3.0%
Local Government	226.4	219.1	222.8	3.3%	1.6%

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES MARCH	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	124,829	124,629	123,245	0.2%	1.3%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	118,334	118,035	117,047	0.3%	1.1%
Unemployment	6,495	6,594	6,198	-1.5%	4.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.3%	5.0%	.....	.....

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted FEBRUARY	(in Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing	548.9	545.4	550.0	0.6%	-0.2%
Durable Goods	333.8	329.5	338.8	1.3%	-1.5%
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	25.9	26.3	26.0	-1.5%	-0.4%
Millwork, Plywood & Related	14.1	14.4	13.9	-2.1%	1.4%
Furniture and Fixtures	12.3	12.4	12.4	-0.8%	-0.8%
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	7.0	7.0	6.6	0.0%	6.1%
Primary Metal Industries	22.1	22.0	22.8	0.5%	-3.1%
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.5	11.5	11.6	0.0%	-0.9%
Fabricated Metal Products	58.7	58.6	58.2	0.2%	0.9%
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	13.7	13.8	13.7	-0.7%	0.0%
Metal Stampings	12.4	12.5	12.4	-0.8%	0.0%
Industrial Machinery	111.5	110.6	111.3	0.8%	0.2%
Engines and Turbines	17.2	16.1	18.4	6.8%	-6.5%
Farm & Garden Machinery	12.6	12.6	12.3	0.0%	2.4%
Construction & Related Machinery	12.8	12.8	12.4	0.0%	3.2%
Metalworking Machinery	16.2	16.1	15.3	0.6%	5.9%
Special Industry Machinery	13.7	13.7	13.1	0.0%	4.6%
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	13.5	13.5	13.3	0.0%	1.5%
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	37.4	37.9	38.4	-1.3%	-2.6%
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	13.5	13.6	14.0	-0.7%	-3.6%
Transportation Equipment	27.0	23.2	32.1	16.4%	-15.9%
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	18.9	15.3	24.3	23.5%	-22.2%
Instrument and Related Products	21.0	20.8	21.0	1.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.0	10.7	10.0	2.8%	10.0%
Nondurable Goods	215.1	215.9	211.3	-0.4%	1.8%
Food and Kindred Products	59.0	59.8	59.0	-1.3%	0.0%
Meat Products	15.0	15.2	14.7	-1.3%	2.0%
Dairy Products	16.5	16.9	17.0	-2.4%	-2.9%
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	9.0	9.1	8.7	-1.1%	3.4%
Textile Mill Products	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0%	-2.4%
Apparel and Other Textiles	6.9	6.9	7.4	0.0%	-6.8%
Paper and Allied Products	49.8	50.0	49.1	-0.4%	1.4%
Paper Mills	29.7	29.8	29.6	-0.3%	0.3%
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	45.9	46.0	44.2	-0.2%	3.8%
Newspapers	12.9	13.0	12.2	-0.8%	5.7%
Commercial Printing	21.2	21.1	20.4	0.5%	3.9%
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.5	10.5	10.6	0.0%	-0.9%
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	31.8	31.7	29.9	0.3%	6.4%
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	25.7	25.6	24.0	0.4%	7.1%
Leather & Leather Products	6.7	6.6	6.6	1.5%	1.5%

Section

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WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS Unadjusted FEBRUARY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing	$452.51	$447.31	$448.45	41.1	41.0	41.6
Durable Goods	458.30	447.43	456.54	41.4	41.2	42.0
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	323.44	319.84	311.12	39.3	39.1	38.6
Furniture and Fixtures	353.83	356.59	367.62	40.3	40.8	43.3
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	453.93	450.41	455.62	44.2	43.9	45.2
Primary Metal Industries	447.95	453.00	463.54	41.4	42.1	44.4
Iron and Steel Foundries	469.29	474.88	479.32	43.9	44.8	46.0
Fabricated Metal Products	424.76	425.60	421.26	41.0	41.2	41.3
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	432.00	440.57	421.93	41.3	42.2	41.9
Metal Stampings	447.72	460.04	480.66	42.0	42.4	42.2
Industrial Machinery	532.88	533.66	507.04	43.5	43.6	43.3
Engines and Turbines	601.46	605.68	542.98	42.9	43.7	41.8
Farm & Gardem Machinery	531.27	515.02	536.55	42.4	41.5	43.8
Construction & Related Machinery	602.90	612.61	502.98	46.7	46.8	43.1
Metalworking Machinery	558.14	565.48	569.33	43.3	43.7	44.9
Special Industry Machinery	547.07	547.98	524.43	45.4	45.4	44.9
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	451.56	451.26	450.06	42.4	41.9	43.4
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	387.87	392.18	385.29	39.7	40.1	40.6
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	404.59	413.88	423.87	39.9	41.1	42.6
Transportation Equipment	599.26	504.59	626.67	41.3	37.6	42.2
Instrument and Related Products	427.74	416.26	449.21	38.5	38.4	40.8
Nondurable Goods	443.35	448.39	434.77	40.6	40.8	40.9
Food and Kindred Products	427.52	432.64	403.57	40.6	40.7	39.8
Meat Products	391.48	404.60	359.00	40.4	40.5	39.8
Dairy Products	416.36	421.45	398.19	40.9	41.4	40.1
Textile Mill Products	377.36	363.32	357.43	42.4	42.1	42.4
Apparel and Other Textiles	261.56	267.67	256.50	37.1	37.7	37.5
Paper and Allied Products	584.64	586.38	589.17	43.5	43.5	44.6
Paper Mills	647.06	645.59	640.59	45.6	45.4	45.4
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	433.19	445.42	426.24	38.2	38.8	38.4
Chemicals and Allied Products	416.80	416.47	428.67	40.0	40.2	41.1
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	358.00	355.39	349.32	40.0	39.4	41.0
Leather & Leather Products	262.74	279.33	273.34	38.3	40.6	39.5

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS Unadjusted FEBRUARY	Including Overtime			Excluding Overtime		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$11.01	$10.91	$10.78	$10.54	$10.45	$10.28
Durable Goods	10.07	10.86	10.87	10.63	10.44	10.36
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	8.23	8.18	8.06	7.98	7.94	7.80
Furniture and Fixtures	8.78	8.74	8.49	8.45	8.43	8.26
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	10.27	10.26	10.08	9.62	9.62	9.44
Primary Metal Industries	10.82	10.76	10.44	10.21	10.23	9.78
Iron and Steel Foundries	10.69	10.60	10.42	10.07	9.99	9.65
Fabricated Metal Products	10.36	10.33	10.20	9.94	9.94	9.63
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	10.46	10.44	10.07	9.99	9.97	9.65
Metal Stampings	10.66	10.85	11.39	10.25	10.41	10.78
Industrial Machinery	12.25	12.24	11.71	11.65	11.65	11.09
Engines and Turbines	14.02	13.86	12.99	13.17	12.98	12.31
Farm & Garden Machinery	12.53	12.41	12.25	11.99	12.05	11.59
Construction & Related Machinery	12.91	13.09	11.67	12.23	12.45	11.17
Metalworking Machinery	12.89	12.94	12.68	12.32	12.34	11.94
Special Industry Machinery	12.05	12.07	11.68	11.33	11.38	11.00
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	10.65	10.77	10.37	10.22	10.36	9.80
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	9.77	9.78	9.49	9.48	9.49	9.18
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.14	10.07	9.95	9.79	9.75	9.65
Transportation Equipment	14.51	13.42	14.85	14.14	13.04	14.18
Instrument and Related Products	11.11	10.84	11.01	10.95	10.68	10.65
Nondurable Goods	10.92	10.99	10.63	10.41	10.46	10.14
Food and Kindred Products	10.53	10.63	10.14	10.05	10.09	9.72
Meat Products	9.69	9.99	9.02	9.27	9.44	8.62
Dairy Products	10.18	10.18	9.93	9.68	9.66	9.49
Textile Mill Products	8.90	8.63	8.43	8.55	8.29	7.99
Apparel and Other Textiles	7.05	7.10	6.84	6.90	6.94	6.67
Paper and Allied Products	13.44	13.48	13.21	12.70	12.74	12.46
Paper Mills	14.19	14.22	14.11	13.34	13.39	13.28
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	11.34	11.48	11.10	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.42	10.36	10.43	10.03	9.98	10.02
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	8.95	9.02	8.52	8.55	8.64	8.17
Leather & Leather Products	6.86	6.88	6.92	6.62	6.66	6.69

Section

C

SUMMARY OF AREA DATA

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
United States	19325.0	19232.0	19518.0	0.5%	-1.0%
Wisconsin	548.9	545.4	550.0	0.6%	-0.2%
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	53.5	53.5	52.7	0.0%	1.5%
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	10.9	10.7	11.3	1.9%	-3.5%
Green Bay (Brown County)	24.2	24.5	23.6	-1.2%	2.5%
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	17.7	14.5	19.2	22.1%	-7.8%
Kenosha (County)	9.6	9.6	12.0	0.0%	-20.0%
La Crosse (County)	9.9	10.0	10.6	-1.0%	-6.6%
Madison (Dane County)	24.7	24.8	24.3	-0.4%	1.6%
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	174.7	172.9	174.2	1.0%	0.3%
Racine (County)	26.4	26.5	26.4	-0.4%	0.0%
Sheboygan (County)	21.8	21.9	21.5	-0.5%	1.4%
Wausau (Marathon County)	14.9	15.1	13.9	-1.3%	7.2%

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers (Unadjusted) FEBRUARY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			
							Incl. Overtime		Excl. Overtime	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$431.88	$429.95	$423.50	40.4	40.6	40.8	$10.69	$10.59	.....	.....
Wisconsin	452.51	447.31	448.45	41.1	41.0	41.6	11.01	10.91	10.54	10.45
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	506.51	509.15	494.04	42.6	42.5	42.7	11.89	11.98	11.31	11.42
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	462.03	474.96	440.73	43.1	43.1	41.5	10.72	11.02	10.24	10.63
Green Bay (Brown County)	472.46	477.82	459.72	40.8	40.7	40.9	11.58	11.74	11.12	11.17
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	512.78	486.33	579.92	42.1	42.4	44.1	12.18	11.47	11.56	10.92
Kenosha (County)	478.91	392.31	515.01	41.5	35.6	41.3	11.54	11.02	11.06	10.56
La Crosse (County)	383.57	377.13	378.95	39.1	39.0	40.4	9.81	9.67	9.57	9.42
Madison (Dane County)	408.72	405.20	410.41	39.3	40.0	41.0	10.40	10.13	10.14	9.90
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	492.40	493.08	488.55	41.8	42.0	41.9	11.78	11.74	11.15	11.14
Racine (County)	430.82	443.29	416.81	38.5	39.9	39.1	11.19	11.11	10.87	10.69
Sheboygan (County)	451.61	477.60	416.94	41.7	44.1	41.2	10.83	10.83	10.48	10.47
Wausau (Marathon County)	442.62	449.01	424.36	41.6	42.2	41.2	10.64	10.64	10.12	10.14

WORKPLACE LITERACY - A LIFELINE TO THE FUTURE

by Gerald Whitburn

As much as a quarter of the American labor force--between 20 and 27 million adults--lack the basic reading, writing, math, and problem-solving skills necessary to perform in today's complex job market. It's not that they can't read or write or solve simple math problems; but they do have difficulty writing a technical report, reading equipment operating instructions, or using information to make job-place decisions.

This problem is not expected to diminish in the near future, since nearly 13 percent of all high school seventeen year-olds are functionally illiterate, and only 44 percent are marginally literate. And, among the million high school dropouts annually--approximately 8,000 in Wisconsin--an estimated 60 percent-are functionally illiterate.

These startling realities are on a collision course with the expectations and needs of our society. The problem affects the ability of many Wisconsinites to hold productive employment and this state's businesses to remain competitive.

Workplace literacy is the lifeline to the future for both employees and employers.

Why? Never before have the majority of American jobs placed so many demands on employes and complicated the needs of employers. Jobs for the truly unskilled are rapidly vanishing in our society. Technological and organizational changes in the workplace require reading, writing and communicating at higher skill levels. Yet in today's world, these are only a few of the basic skills needed, even from their entry level employes.

Employers now want employees who will hear the salient points of a customers' concerns (listening) and who can convey an adequate response (oral communications). They want workers who can think on their feet (problem solving) and who can come up with innovative solutions when needed (creative thinking). Employers want employes who can get along with customers, suppliers and co-workers (interpersonal and negotiation skills) and who can work with others to achieve a goal (teamwork). And perhaps most critical of all, employers want workers who have learned how to learn. All of these skills add up to the basics that are essential for acquiring the more sophisticated skills now needed in the workplace.

What about our future labor force? Will the challenges we face today continue into the next decade? In all likelihood, yes. Every indicator that we have tells us that the rate of growth of the labor force is declining and the pool of potential workers is shrinking. The available pool of workers that grew almost three per cent a year in the 1970s will grow by barely one percent a year in the 1990's, and by as little as 0.5 percent by the year 2010. Furthermore, a greater percentage of the labor force will be comprised of groups which have traditionally faced the greatest barriers to full participation. Women, blacks, Hispanics, Asians and immigrants will account for more than three-quarters of the net increase in employment from between now and the turn of the century.

Not only are employability standards higher, but a greater percentage of the worker pool has a difficult time meeting those standards. Increasingly,

employers must turn to already employed workers to meet their needs.

Do Wisconsin workers measure up? Many do. We have always prided ourselves on our ability to provide a skilled, well-trained labor force to existing and new Wisconsin companies. Nevertheless, tens of thousands of our workers go to work each day unable to read the signs on the walls at their workplace. Many more are functionally illiterate. In one Wisconsin plant alone, 40 percent of the workers lack a high school diploma.

These numbers reflect a waste of human potential already in the workplace, a tremendous drain on the state's productivity, and an imposing challenge to Wisconsin businesses and educational institutions.

I am convinced, however, that we can meet this challenge. Some Wisconsin employers are already well on their way. A Sheboygan manufacturer offers $1,000 per semester to employees taking courses to further their education. A Janesville firm offers college tuition to its workers' children. Currently about 75,000 adults receive some sort of basic skills instruction, many outside the work setting. And, approximately 50 Wisconsin businesses receive either federal or state funds through the technical college system, to set up on-site learning centers. While state government can't pick up the tab, we can be a catalyst in nudging people along.

The Governor's Work Place Literacy Initiative is just a catalyst to give these other efforts a boost.

Governor Thompson has put together a Work Place Literacy Initiative that allows Wisconsin to take the leap necessary to turn this crisis into an opportunity. It can provide a lifeline to workers and companies alike as they struggle for survival in this rapidly changing, increasingly technical and highly competitive world. It recognizes that illiteracy is not just an education problem to be dealt with in isolation, but a complex problem of human resource development which bears directly on the nation's productivity and future economic competitiveness. Finally, it fosters partnerships at the state and local level--partnerships among government, business, labor and education all working toward a common goal.

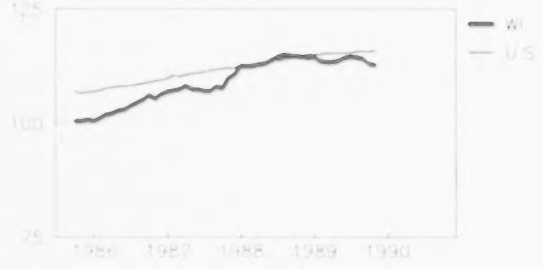
The beauty of this proposal is that it provides incentives to employers, but expects employers to match those incentives dollar for dollar. Its purpose is to put individuals and companies with workplace literacy needs in touch with people and agencies who can meet those needs.

The challenges we face in getting off this collision course and in closing the skills gap are enormous but not impossible. Employers, employees and government are new partners in meeting this challenge. They can capitalize on each other's strengths to design effective programs for workplace literacy.

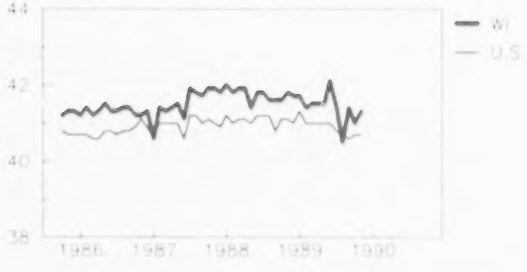
WISCONSIN, U.S. COMPARISONS

	FEBRUARY, 1990		MO. AGO		YR. AGO	
	WI.	U.S.	WI.	U.S.	WI.	U.S.
Total Employment (thous.)	2465.7	118,035	2473.1	117,863	2507.6	116,757
Total Unemployment (thous.)	110.0	6,594	132.6	6,535	113.4	6,360
Mfg. Employment (thous.)	561.0	19,449	558.5	19,359	561.7	19,648
Avg. Workweek, Mfg. (hours)	41.0	40.7	41.3	40.7	41.8	41.1
Avg. Weekly Initial Claims	8449	357,000	8821	359,000	7437	305,000
Total Unemployment Rate	4.3%	5.3%	5.1%	5.3%	4.3%	5.2%

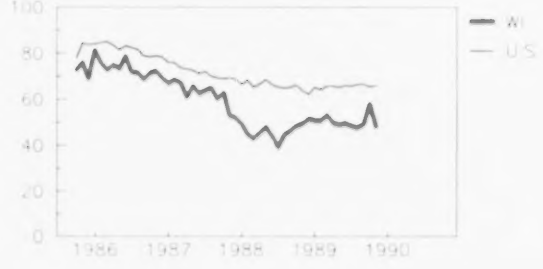
Total Employment
1982–1984 = 100



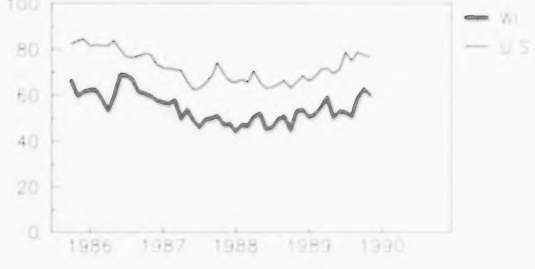
Avg. Workweek, Mfg.
Hours



Total Unemployment
1982–1984 = 100



Avg. Weekly Initial Claims
1982–1984 = 100



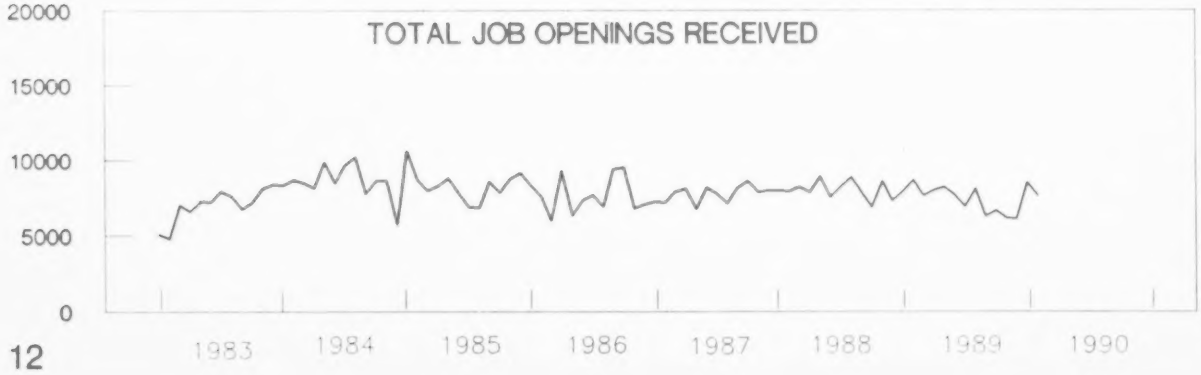
Manufacturing Empl.
1982–1984 = 100

Total Unemployment Rate
Percent

Section

D

CYCLICAL INDICATORS



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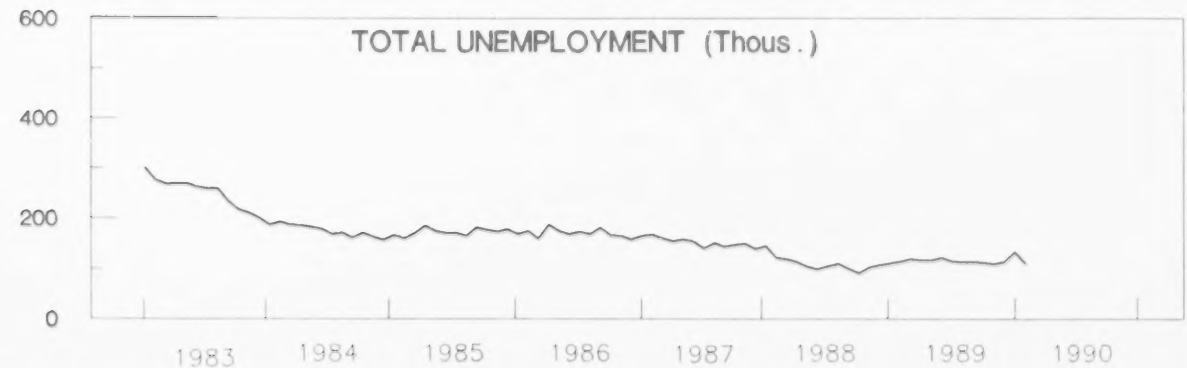
CYCLICAL INDICATORS



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